

COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(WALTER HY. ALLEN, L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng.)

TO THE

SANITARY AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY

ON THE

Health of the District

AND THE

Medical Inspection of School Children

FOR THE YEAR

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1914.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Coseley Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have great pleasure in presenting to you my Second Annual Report. The district is bounded on the West by Sedgley.

“ “ “ South by Dudley.
“ “ “ North by Bilston and Wolverhampton.
“ “ “ East by Tipton.

The district is drained by several small streams which finally enter the Tame.

The area is 3,737 acres, and the population is estimated by the County Medical Officer for the middle of the year 1914 at 23,048. Consequently, I have worked out the death rates and other percentages according to that figure. This gives an average of 6.2 persons per acre.

The district is very uneven in its surface, having been undermined years ago. In some parts the land has become solid, but in others not.

The population consists principally of the artisan class, who, although they reside in the district, in a number of instances earn their livelihood outside.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year 1914, 681 births were registered, comprising 342 males and 339 females—giving a birth rate of 29.5 per thousand.

The deaths registered number 377 belonging to the district, 327 being registered in the district, of whom 175 were males and 152 females. This gives a death rate of 14.2 per thousand. There were 50 transferable deaths occurring outside the district, comprising 35 males and 15 females, and adding these deaths to those registered in the district gives a death rate of 16.3.

TABLE I.

URBAN DISTRICT OF COSELEY.

Vital Statistics of whole district during 1914 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett. Number	Rate	Number.	Rate ²	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	At all Ages.	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	22,250	740	740	33.25	358	16.08	...	33	85	115	391	17.57
1910	22,250	675	675	30.33	283	12.7	...	42	78	115	325	14.6
1911	22,250	650	650	29.2	323	14.5	...	35	79	121	358	16
1912	22,250	572	577	25.93	267	12	...	43	59	102	310	13.9
1913	22,981	741	741	32.4	317	13.7	...	60	99	133	377	16.46
1914	23,048	681	681	29.5	327	14.2	...	50	86	126	377	16.3

Rates in Columns 5, 7, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total Population at all ages	22,841	At Census of 1911.
Number of inhabited houses	..	...	...	4,872
Average number of persons per house	...	...	4.56	



The following table shows the mortality in the various months and the death rate:—

Month.	Deaths.			Rate.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	per Thousand.	
January	20	13	33	17.1	
February	21	29	50	26	
March	11	18	29	15.1	
April	16	18	34	17.7	
May	15	9	24	12.5	
June	14	18	32	16.6	
July	9	12	21	10.9	
August	8	14	22	11.5	
September	13	14	27	14	
October	20	15	35	18.2	
November	26	14	40	20.4	
December	14	16	30	15.6	
	—	—	—	—	
Totals	187	190	377	Av. 16.3	
	—	—	—	—	

The above table shows that the highest death rate occurred in February, whilst July and August had the lowest death rates.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following table gives the deaths and death rates from these diseases during the past five years. There were 22 deaths in 1914 as compared with 43 in 1913, a decrease of 21, giving a zymotic death rate of .95 per thousand.

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Whooping Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Total.	Rate per 1,000.
1914	0	3	2	0	0	2	1	0	14	22	.95
1913	0	18	0	2	3	1	0	1	18	43	1.88
1912	0	15	2	1	5	1	1	0	7	32	1.43
1911	0	23	2	1	0	0	1	0	28	55	2.47
1910	0	0	1	0	9	2	1	2	12	27	1.2

TABLE II.
URBAN DISTRICT OF COSELEY.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.										
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-Pox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera, Plague	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	6	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	37	—	17	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	53	1	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	17	5	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.	...	130	9	28	32	20	26	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Wolverhampton General Hospital, Tipton Hospital. Moxley Sanatorium, and other Sanatoria near the sea.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The following table shows the mortality amongst children under one year of age, and the proportion per 1,000 births registered for the previous five years:—

Year.	Deaths under 1 year.			Mortality per 1,000 births.	
1914	86	...	126
1913	99	...	132
1912	59	...	102
1911	79	...	121
1910	78	...	115

In 1914 there were 381 births and 86 deaths in infants, i.e., under one year of age, giving a death rate of 126 per thousand births registered.

Comparing the birth rate this year (681) with that of last year (741) there is a decrease of 60, equal to 8 per cent. Last year's birth rate was, however, abnormal, the average for the last five years being 654.

Comparing the death rate of infants this year (86) with last year (99) we have a decrease of 13, equal to 13 per cent.

MEASLES.

During 1914 there were 3 deaths from measles, as compared with 18 in 1913. This disease, not coming under the category of notifiable diseases, makes it an impossibility to ascertain the number of cases occurring in the year. It was epidemic in May and the Autumn months, and continued so till the latter end of the year. It became so prevalent that I recommended the closure of the Infant Departments of the Daisy Bank and Hurst Hill Council Schools.

The general improvement in hygienic conditions, and parents adopting more care in the nursing of their children in the disease, no doubt accounts for the diminished death rate, although in England and Wales in 1912 it accounted for 13,000 deaths, 1,790 occurring in London.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 37 cases were notified as compared with 24 last year. There were 2 deaths as compared with 0 in the year previous. There has been no general epidemic; the cases seem to be of a sporadic nature. There were only two months in which I did not receive notification of the disease, viz., April and February, but it was most prevalent in May and October. The disease is not so serious as it was years ago, unless it assumes a malignant type, or dangerous complications arise. Two cases were reported in two families of milk dealers, but as the businesses were carried on away from the private dwellings, and care was adopted in each case for their isolation, I was unable to trace any other case arising from these, from milk sold, but most of the

cases arise from personal contact either at school or home. It is a difficult task to isolate cases in the dwellings of artisans. Every house is disinfected after the patient becomes convalescent from the infection. All cases are supplied with germicides.

WHOOPING COUGH.

No death has occurred during the year from this disease. This not being a notifiable disease makes it a difficult matter to ascertain the number of cases occurring in the year. It was most prevalent in the early and latter parts of the year, and was of the most virulent type, many of the cases having either Capillary Bronchitis or Broncho-Pneumonia as complications. It was one of the diseases for which the Infant Departments of the Daisy Bank and Hurst Hill Council Schools were closed.

SMALL POX.

No case has been noticed this year; it is gratifying to be able to report such a fact. There is no improvement in the numbers of vaccinations since 1913, and it is high time this was made more compulsory, especially considering the critical period through which we are passing, with so many interchanges.

DIPHTHERIA.

Six cases were notified during the year, but none terminated fatally, compared with two in 1913. Such a record is gratifying to your Council, as it is no doubt due to the injections of Antitoxin, which you allowed to be used free by all who were not in a position to pay for same. All cases have been visited by me, and in some cases I found sanitary defects, which have since been remedied. Five specimens of Throat Swabs have been sent to the Birmingham University for examination, 3 showing negative and 2 positive results. Although the examination and use of Antitoxin entail a little cost to you, it is far outweighed by the results obtained from same.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Five cases were notified, and there were 2 deaths. One case was unable to be properly nursed at home, so was sent to the Wolverhampton General Hospital, where a complete recovery ensued. None of the cases had any connection, neither could any be traced to water, shell-fish, or anything that was likely to become infected with typhoid germs.

Several sanitary defects were discovered at some of the premises, which were at once remedied. Germicides are supplied to every case, and a covered galvanised receptacle is sent to all cases to collect the faeces so that they may be dealt with by the proper method.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

During the year there were 14 deaths from diarrhœa. Of these 11 occurred in infants under one year, and the others in children under the age of two. This is a disease which, if proper precautions are taken, is more or less preventable. All food stuffs, especially in summer, should be properly covered up, so as not to be exposed to the flies, who are carriers of all sorts of germs, which, when deposited on food, liquid, or otherwise, multiply innumerable, and when the food, so contaminated, is taken into the system is frequently the cause of serious consequences. Another cause of the dreaded disease in summer is over ripe fruit, bought on account of its cheapness no doubt, but because of the result it produces becomes dear.

As another preventative, it is necessary that yards, outbuildings and drains should be kept under the most sanitary conditions.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Only one case was notified during the year, which terminated fatally. Considering the number of births, and the insanitary conditions under which the mother is nursed at her accouchement, it is astounding to me that there are so few cases and deaths. The County Medical Officer of Health took the case in hand to investigate, but I have not heard his report of same. The woman was nursed by an uncertificated person, who was at once prohibited from nursing any other cases. Although this case was injected with antistreptococcus vaccine (the latest treatment for puerperal fever) death ensued.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 53 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, and 17 cases of other form of Tuberculosis. The deaths from this disease numbered 28, of which 22 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The following table shows the ages at which the deaths took place:—

Between 2 and under 5 years	...	...	1 death.
,, 5	,, 15	,,	3 deaths.
,, 15	,, 25	,,	3 deaths.
,, 25	,, 45	,,	9 deaths.
,, 45	,, 65	,,	6 deaths.
			—
			22 deaths.
			—

TABLE III.

URBAN DISTRICT OF COSELEY.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths of "Residents" whether in or beyond district.						Total Deaths in the Districts in Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and Under 2	2 and Under 5	5 and Under 15	15 and Under 45	
All causes { Certified	376						
Uncertified	1						
Enteric Fever	2				1	1	
Measles...	3		2	1			
Scarlet Fever	2			2			
Whooping Cough							
Diphtheria and Croup							
Influenza	7				1	2	4
Erysipelas	1					1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	22			1	3	9	6
Tuberculous Meningitis							
Other Tuberculous diseases	6	2	2	1	1		
Cancer, Malignant disease	19						
Rheumatic Fever...	6					1	2
Meningitis	5	2	3				
Organic Heart Disease	42				1	2	8
							25

Bronchitis ...	30	7	3			1	3	16
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	45	10	9	3	4	4	5	6
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	2		2					
Diarrhea and Enteritis ...	14	11	3					
Appendicitis and Typhlitis								
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3					2	1	
Alcoholism ...								
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	6	1		1			3	1
Puerperal Fever ...	1			1				
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	1				1			
Congenital* Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	33	31	2					
Violent Deaths ...	12	2		1	2	1	1	3
Suicide ...	9				1	6	2	
Other defined diseases ...	106	20	6	5	1	5	17	52
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...								
Totals ...	377	86	30	16	12	39	62	116

There were 6 deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis, viz.:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	2 deaths.
Between 1 and under 2 years	...	...	...	2 deaths.
,, 2 ,, 5 ,,	...	...	...	1 death.
,, 5 ,, 15 ,,	...	...	...	1 death.
			—	
			6 deaths.	—

All the cases have been personally visited and a special report compiled from which information can be gathered as to the conditions under which the patient is living. In a number of cases there is poverty, want of cleanliness, and ignorance. By the latter term I mean it is impossible to make the patient understand and adhere to instructions given to him for his own benefit and the welfare of the family and the world generally. Although your Council has had a number of bedroom windows made to open, they are not used so frequently as might be, as people do not realise that fresh air and sunlight are nourishment for the lungs. Cases are treated at Moxley Sanatorium, whilst some incipient cases, who have been receiving domiciliary treatment have also received tubercular injections at the Wolverhampton Institution. The Sanatoria are altogether inadequate for the treatment of the vast number of cases there are throughout the country.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Twenty-six specimens of sputa from doubtful cases were sent for examination to the Birmingham University. Twenty-three showed negative and three positive results.

HOUSING.

During the year 14 new houses were certified and occupied.

The housing problem is one that is still commanding the fullest attention of all health authorities. Some are considerably more advanced on the question than others, and in some cases pecuniary circumstances (building materials still being at a very high price) has somewhat impeded the building of new houses by the speculator, and the critical period through which we are passing is by no means a small factor in the stagnation of the building trade.

As soon as these difficulties are overcome, it is the duty of Councils and their officials to put their united efforts to the work, and so improve matters for the welfare of the community. The idea of the artisan (although in the minority I am pleased to say) is to house his family under the cheapest conditions he can, forgetting that although he may be saving a few shillings per week by his procedure, he may be spending pounds in the remedying of disease, which

would probably not have been contracted had the family been housed under better conditions. The vast amount of money that is being expended at the present time on Sanatoria will be absolutely thrown away if the patients after leaving the Institutions where they have been treated return to houses that do not provide sufficient air space and up-to-date sanitary arrangements. The appended report as supplied by your Sanitary Inspector shows the amount of work done to property during 1914.

One hundred and fourteen houses have been inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, during the past year. The outstanding defects were dampness, want of cleanliness, defective roofs and spouts. In 64 houses, alterations have been made to provide more air space. Two hundred and eighty-six inspections have been made when alterations were in progress; 95 glazed sinks have been provided, whilst 227 premises have had spouting repaired. Five hundred and ninety-six premises have been inspected not under the Housing and Town Planning Act. At the close of the year, ~~18~~³⁶ houses are under consideration; ~~14~~³⁰ back-to-back houses have been converted into through ones. In no instance has it been necessary to institute legal proceedings.

HOME WORK.

There are 63 outworkers in the district, a number considerably less than in 1913, when there were 92. No case of infectious disease has been reported from any of the outworkers' homes.

Sanitary improvements have been effected in connection with 655 houses. The following is a list of the number of houses where the principal sanitary defects have been remedied:—

Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	316
„ damp remedied	...	...	...	...	...	198
„ overcrowding remedied	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ provided with improved ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	64
„ with floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	184
„ with roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	234
„ with spouting provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	265
„ with drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	106
„ with closets cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	399
„ with ashpits provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	64
„ with brewhouses cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	214
„ with paving relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	80
„ with sanitary sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	95

TABLE IV.
COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSE	OF DEATH	Under 1-2 Weeks				Total under 1 Month.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
		20	3	6	5						
All Causes	Certified	...	...	...	...	34	8	17	13	14	86
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...		
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...		
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...		
Common Infectious Diseases	Measles	...	...	...	...		
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...		
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...		
	Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...		
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...		
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...		
Tuberculous Diseases	Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)	...	...	...	...		
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...		
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...		
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...		
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...		
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...		
	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...		

Diarrhoea	2	1	2	4
Diseases	1	1	1	1
Enteritis	1	1	1	1
Gastritis	1	1	1	1
Syphilis	1	1	1	1
Rickets	1	1	1	1
Suffocation, overlying	1	1	1	1
Injury at Birth	1	1	1	1
Atelectasis	1	1	1	1
Congenital Malforma- tions (c) ...	1	1	1	1
Premature Birth	2	2	2	2
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	3	1	8	1
Other Causes	4	1	5	2
			3	
				2
				12
				14
				86
	20	3	6	5
			34	8
				13
				17

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate, 655.
 { Illegitimate, 26.

Nett Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants, 77.
Illegitimate Infants, 9.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

The following detailed table shows at a glance what has been done under the above Act :—

Houses listed for Inspection	...	...	...	...	127
Inspection under and for purposes of Section 17	...	...	...	...	114
Considered unfit	...	...	...	...	83
Represented	...	...	...	...	83
Closing orders made	...	...	...	...	21
,, ,, deferred	...	...	...	...	9
,, ,, not made	...	...	...	...	62
,, ,, determined	...	...	...	...	1
Demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	9
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	10
Under consideration at end of year	...	...	...	...	36
Back-to-back houses converted into through houses					30

Of the 62 houses where closing orders were not made by the Council, sanitary defects have been remedied at 35 whilst the remainder are receiving attention.

Sanitary repairs have been remedied at 3 of the 9 houses where the closing orders were deferred.

Although general sanitary defects have been found at each of the above houses, generally speaking, it is on account of dampness and defective ventilation that many are considered unfit for human habitation.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the district from three sources :—

- (1) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
- (2) Wolverhampton Corporation Waterworks.
- (3) Bilston Council Waterworks.

There is one house in the district not supplied with tap water, which I brought to your notice in my December report.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 licensed slaughter-houses in the district and 1 registered, and 35 meat shops, being one less than in 1913. One hundred and twenty visits have been made to the premises, which, on the whole, are clean. One pair of parasitic sheep's lungs were found, and these were promptly destroyed. This is the only instance in which unsound meat was found to be exposed for sale. A large quantity of meat is imported from adjoining towns; this accounts for the decrease in the number of slaughter-houses, there being 13 in 1913. No tubercular cow or tuberculous carcass has been found during the whole year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SEWERAGE.

 Closet, etc., Accommodation :—

Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Privy vaults	...	...	...	...	...	...	3088
Oil closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1928

 Sewerage :—During the year new sewers, complete with chambers, etc., have been laid in Millfields Road and Barlow Street thereby enabling the privies to the houses in both these roads to be converted into water closets.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS.

 There are 21 dairy farmers in the district as compared with 24 in 1913, and stalling approximately 199 cows. In some of the cowsheds the roofs have been raised, thus providing more air space and ventilation. Eighty-eight visits have been paid to the cowsheds. Milk is sold from 10 shops in the district, and there is no ground for complaint either in the quality of the milk or cattle. There has been no contravention of your bye-laws.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

 There are 44 factories, 92 workshops, including 23 bakelhouses, in Coseley district, these figures being the same as in 1913. In 16 instances the sanitary conveniences were either unsuitable or defective, and in two cases were not sufficiently private. These defects have been remedied. In two factories extensive alterations are being made, and in one factory the dilapidated privies have been demolished and a new closet accommodation provided. One factory urinal has been cleansed and repaired. Five workshops have also been cleansed.

 The sanitary work of the district was somewhat interrupted during the year by the changing of the Sanitary Inspectors. Mr. Schofield resigned the position on March 31st, and your present Sanitary Inspector took over the duties on July 13th. During the vacancy your Council appointed the Assistant Inspector to officiate, who very ably carried out the work.

NOTIFICATION ACT.

 The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not yet been adopted in this district.

 The notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was made compulsory by the Local Government Board on April 1st. It is gratifying to know that there were only two cases notified as compared with four the previous year.

TABLE V.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Home Work.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES	66	...	...
(including Factory Laundries)			
WORKSHOPS	30	...	...
(including Workshop Laundries)			
WORKPLACES	4	...	...
(other than Outworker's premises included in Part 3 of this Report)			
TOTAL ...	100	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			No of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of floors ... ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ... ... ..	...	2	2	...
Sanitary accommo- dation	insufficient	...	...	...
	unsuitable or defective	6	6	...
	not separate for sexes	2	2	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses (ss. 97 to 100) ... ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ... ..	...	...	...	...
(excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
TOTAL ...	12	12	...	...

TABLE V.—*Continued.*

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.				OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE-SOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.				OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTION 109, 110.				
	Lists received from Employers.		Once in the year.		Prosecutions.		Prosecutions.		Orders made (S. 110), 109, 110)				
	Outworkers.	Outworkers.	Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.	In- instances served.	Failing to keep or permit inspection of Lists.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(16)	
Wearing Apparel—													
(1) making, &c.	14	...	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Furniture & Upholstery	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
File Making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cables and Chains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	TOTAL	14	...	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.													
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.											
	(1)												
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	23	Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—							
Boots, Shoes, &c.	...	...	...	...	10	Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133), 1901...							
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	11	Notified by H.M. Inspector							
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	13	Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5), 1901							
Joinery, &c.	...	...	...	...	8	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector							
Tin and Ironworkers	...	...	...	...	5	Other	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	5								
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	17								
Total	...					Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—							
						Certificates granted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...
						In use at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...
						92							

TABLE VI.

**Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department
during the year 1914 in the Urban District of Coseley.**

(Signed) ARTHUR BENNETT,
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Measles and whooping cough were very prevalent in the early and latter parts of the year. Not being notifiable diseases, it is impossible to ascertain the number of cases that occurred, but you will observe under my report of the respective ailments, the number of deaths that took place from same.

I congratulate your Council upon the amount of work and improvements generally that have been carried out to properties during the year, and I consider the labour and money you have spent upon the roads for making and repairing same, must have been appreciated by the ratepayer, for I consider they compare very favourably with other districts.

In conclusion of my report, I ask the Chairman and members of the Council, and the Clerk, to accept my heartiest thanks for the courtesy I have received at their hands, and am grateful to say that the same willing assistance has been rendered me, this year as last, by your officials with whom I come in contact in the discharging of my duties. This assistance I have much appreciated.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,
WALTER HY. ALLEN, L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
Medical Officer of Health.

February 12th, 1915.



COSELEY EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERVISOR OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

(WALTER HY. ALLEN, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.)

FOR THE YEAR

1914.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE EDUCATION
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FOR THE YEAR 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the Coseley Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my Second Annual Report as Supervising School Medical Officer, the Staff being constituted as follows:—

WALTER H. ALLEN, School Medical Officer and also Medical Officer of Health.

CHARLES HOPE WADDELL, Assistant School Medical Officer.

The work of the School Medical Officer is to supervise the work generally, to visit the Schools, to report on the condition of the School premises, to prepare the Annual and other Reports, and to perform the functions specially assigned to him by the Code.

The duty of the Assistant School Medical Officer is to examine those children required by the Code to be inspected, and to record the results of such inspections. He also signs notices to parents when treatment of defects is called for. The examinations which have taken place during the year have been of children either entering or leaving School, and of others to whom the special attention of the Assistant School Medical Officer has been called. With the co-operation of the School Attendance Officer, cases have been better "followed up" than in any previous year, though very much still remains to be done in this direction.

Last year 776 children were examined, 369 boys and 407 girls. This year 1,329 children have been examined, 660 boys and 669 girls—an increase of 553 or over 70 per cent. Next year there should be a still further increase as a third division has to be examined.

The Schools examined number 9—six being Council Schools and three non-provided.

ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE HEAD TEACHERS.

Questions 1—6 (on the "Condition" tables) are filled in by the Head Teachers, and they also give valuable assistance in preparing the children for inspection. They also assess the mental condition of the child.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

Usually the mother is in attendance when the child is inspected. Directions are given as to treatment, and in many cases these directions are carried out.

NOTES ON THE SCHOOLS.

MOUNT PLEASANT (JUNIOR)

Number examined:—Boys, 23; girls, 43; total, 66.

The nutrition of the boys is above the average, over 50 per cent. being assessed "good."

Not one boy was examined who had a dirty head or body. The teeth of the boys were much below the average. The nutrition of the girls was very marked, over 63 per cent. being returned as "good." This was a noteworthy fact also last year.

The cleanliness of the girls is much above the average.

MOUNT PLEASANT (SENIOR).

Number examined:—Boys, 99; girls, 85; total, 184.

In contrast to the Infants the nutrition, particularly of the boys, is below the average. The percentage of children marked "good" is only 14.7. About 22 per cent of boys is marked "below normal." Nearly 20 per cent. of boys had unsatisfactory vision.

The clothing and footgear of the girls are very much better than that of the boys, the reason probably lying in the great care taken by the girls.

Two girls had goitre and one curvature of the spine.

DAISY BANK (INFANTS).

Number examined:—Boys, 44; girls, 49; total, 93.

It is noteworthy that although 25 per cent. of footgear was marked as "unsatisfactory" among the boys, there was not a single case of unsatisfactory clothing. The teeth of the boys are distinctly above the average.

The nutrition of both boys and girls is much above the average, the percentage being 45 per cent. "good" and 50 per cent. "normal." Last year only 24 per cent. were marked "good." The improvement is most probably due to improved trade conditions.

The cleanliness of girls' heads is above the average.

DAISY BANK (MIXED).

Number examined:—Boys, 57; girls, 59; total, 116.

The nutrition is much improved. Last year 13.1 per cent. were marked "good," this year there is 38.8 per cent. as compared with 14.7 at Mount Pleasant, and 24.9 at Hurst Hill.

Teeth are distinctly above the average. One boy is returned as a "defective" and also as having a "fractured skull."

The percentage of unsatisfactory clothing and footgear is high, and as trade conditions are good, as evidenced by the nutrition, the question arises as to whether the cause is either carelessness or improvidence rather than poverty.

Over 60 per cent. of the girls were returned as having dirty heads, a very unsatisfactory state of things. The teeth of the girls are remarkably good. Twenty-three per cent. of children had unsatisfactory vision.

HURST HILL (INFANTS).

Number examined:—Boys, 35; girls, 52; total 87.

The clothing and footgear of the boys are much better than last year, but that of girls worse. This is remarkable, for it is evident that poverty is not the cause, as the girls are much better nourished than the boys. Twenty-six per cent. of children are returned as having "dirty" heads, the percentage of girls being about 40. Nearly 50 per cent. had enlarged tonsils. One boy had 20 carious teeth.

HURST HILL (MIXED).

Number examined:—Boys, 39; girls, 70; total, 109.

Nutrition of boys below the average, only about 13 per cent. being returned as "good." The eyesight of the boys is much above the average.

The clothing and footgear are worse than at any school, over 33 per cent. being returned as "unsatisfactory." The nutrition of the girls is good.

The cleanliness of both boys and girls is above the average. The teeth of the girls were also considerably above the average.

There are a large number of girls with defective eyesight—24 per cent. Two girls had goitre.

TABLE I.—CONDITION.—ENTRANTS.

TABLE II.—CONDITION.—LEAVERS.

CONDITION.		MOUNT PEASANT.		DAISY BANK.		HURST HILL.		LANESFIELD.		BROAD LANES.		CHRIST CHURCH.		ST. MARY'S.															
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total	%												
CLOTHING	Satisfactory	88	79	167	90.7	41	46	87	75	29	43	72	66	10	6	16	17	16	33	82.5	86	70	15.5	97.5	37	19	56	93.4	
	Unsatisfactory	11	6	17	9.3	16	13	23	25	10	27	37	34	..	..	..	3	4	7	17.5	4	..	4	..	..	4	6.6	
FOOTGEAR	Satisfactory	82	80	162	88	40	39	73	68.1	20	44	73	67	10	6	16	100	16	14	30	75	80	67	147	82	29	17	46	76.7
	Unsatisfactory	17	5	22	12	17	20	37	31.9	10	26	36	33	..	..	..	4	6	10	25	9	3	12	8	12	2	14	23.3
NUTRITION	Good	14	13	27	14.7	17	28	45	38.8	5	22	27	24.9	5	3	8	60	4	2	6	15	12	24	36	22.5	10	4	14	23.3
	Normal	64	66	130	70.6	29	28	55	49.1	27	44	71	65.1	6	3	8	59	14	17	31	77.5	60	44	68.1	26	14	40	66.7	
	Sub-Normal	21	6	27	14.7	11	3	14	12.1	7	4	11	10	2	3	3	7.5	17	2	19	11.4	5	1	6	10
CLEANLINESS OF HEAD	Bad
	Vermous and Un-clean	5	37	42	22.8	1	36	37	31.9	..	14	14	12.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ringworm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other locally infective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLEANLINESS OF BODY	All other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Vermous and Un-clean	18	7	25	13.6	21	13	34	29	5	2	7	6.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ringworm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other locally infective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TEETH	All other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Dentures sound	17	22	30	21.2	16	17	33	28.4	11	24	35	32	2	2	4	25	3	10	13	22.5	28	18	46	29	6	4	10	16.6
	Less than 4 Carious	27	27	54	29.2	27	31	58	41.4	12	25	37	34	2	4	6	87.5	9	8	17	42.5	37	34	71	44.6	24	10	34	56.8
	No. with more than 4 Carious	..	55	36	91	49.6	14	11	35	30.2	16	21	37	34	6	6	6	37.5	8	2	10	25	24	18	42	26.4	11	5	16

NOSE AND THROAT	Impaired Nose	14	12	26	14·1	7	12	19	16·3	7	5	12	11	1	1	6·3	3	1	4	10	9	9	18	11·2	8	2	10	16·6		
	Breathing	32	23	55	29·7	17	23	40	34·4	11	17	28	25·6	3	3	6	37·5	6	2	8	20	17	26	43	27	13	2	15	25	
	Chronic Pharyngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tonsils enlarged	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cervical Glands enlarged	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Submaxillary Glands enlarged	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
EYE DISEASES	Minor Non-infective Affections	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2·5	1	1	2	1·3	..
	Infective Ophthalmic Affections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Opacities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Squint	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	All other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Satisfactory	..	80	74	154	83·7	42	47	89	76·7	34	49	83	76·1	9	4	13	81·2	14	14	28	70	69	47	116	73	38	13	51	85
VISION	Unsatisfactory	..	19	11	30	16·3	15	12	27	23·3	5	21	26	23·9	1	2	3	18·8	6	6	12	30	20	23	43	27	3	6	9	15
	Satisfactory	..	90	83	182	98·9	57	69	116	100	30	70	109	100	9	6	15	93·7	19	20	39	97·5	89	70	159	100	41	19	60	100
	Ear discharging	1	..	2·5	
	Ear discharging	
	Satisfactory	..	98	85	183	99·6	57	57	114	98·3	30	70	109	100	10	6	16	100	20	20	40	100	89	68	157	98·7	41	19	60	100
	Defective	1	
EAR CONDITION	Stammering	
	Lispings	
	Indistinctness	
	Idioglossia	
MENTAL CONDITION	Bright or Fair	..	90	74	164	89	50	57	107	92·3	38	58	96	88	10	6	16	100	19	19	38	95	80	67	147	92	36	19	55	91·7
	Dull and Backward	..	9	11	20	11	7	2	9	77	1	12	13	12	1	1	2	5	9	3	12	8	5	..	5	8·3

TABLE III.—CONDITION.—TOTALS.

TABLE IV.—HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

SCHOOLS.	ENTRANTS, 5-6.								LEAVERS, 12-13.											
	HEIGHTS.				WEIGHTS.				HEIGHTS.				WEIGHTS.							
	BOYS.	GRRLS.	BOYS.	GRRLS.	BOYS.	GRRLS.	BOYS.	GRRLS.	BOYS.	GRRLS.	BOYS.	GRRLS.	BOYS.	GRRLS.	BOYS.	GRRLS.				
MOUNT PLEASANT ...	12 3 4½	102·8	27 3 3½	100·3	12 39½	18·1	27	37	16·8	96 4	5½	136·4	82 4	5½	135·9	96	69½	31·6 82	68	30·9
DAVIS BANK ...	30 3 3½	99·6	28 3 3½	100·3	30 36	16·30	28	37	16·8	45 4	4½	133·9	51 4	6	127·3	45	66	30 51	70½	32·1
HURST HILL ...	32 3 5½	104·8	41 3 4½	102·2	32 37½	16·85	42	36	16·3	32 4	6½	138·4	52 4	6½	139·4	32	69	31·4 52	69½	31·6
LANESFIELD ...	5 3 4½	102·8	9 3 3	99	3 40	18·15	7	35½	16·1	10 4	6½	139	2 4	6½	139·1	10	73½	34·5 2	68½	31·1
BROAD LANE ...	8 3 3½	99·6	9 3 4	101·6	8 34½	15·84	9	36½	16·59	18 4	6½	138·4	17 4	5	134·3	18	73	34·1 17	66½	30·2
PARKFIELDS ...	15 3 4	101·6	17 3 4½	102·2	15 37½	17·04	17	35½	16·25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CHRIST CHURCH ...	21 3 4	101·6	21 3 3½	100·3	21 37½	17·04	21	37½	17·15	63 4	5½	136·3	62 4	5½	135·9	63	67½	30·8 62	67½	30·8
ST. CHAD'S ...	10 3 3	99	5 3 4½	103·4	10 37½	17	5	39	17·5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ST. MARY'S ...	29 3 5½	105	27 3 4½	102·2	29 40	18·15	27	34½	15·8	35 4	5½	135·4	12 4	6½	139·1	35	66½	30·3 12	73½	34·3
TOTALS AND AVERAGE																	69½	31·6 278	69	31·4

TABLE V.—AGES OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

SCHOOLS.	TODAY												GRAND TOTAL		
	UNDER 5		5-6		6-12		12-13		OVER 13		TOTALS				
	BOYS	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
MOUNT PLEASANT	11	14	12	27	—	2	96	82	3	122	128	250	
DAISY BANK	12	18	30	28	12	5	45	51	2	6	101	108	209
HURST HILL	1	7	32	41	3	5	32	52	6	17	74	122	196
LANESFIELD	9	9	5	9	5	2	10	2	—	4	29	26	55
BROAD LINES	30	34	8	9	4	3	18	17	—	—	60	63	123
PARKFIELDS	8	5	15	17	7	5	—	—	—	—	30	27	57
CHRIST CHURCH	22	20	21	21	29	6	63	62	6	8	141	117	258
ST. CHAD'S	11	18	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	23	44
ST. MARY'S	9	6	29	27	3	8	35	12	6	2	82	55	137
TOTALS	113	131	162	184	63	36	299	278	23	40	660	669	1329

LANESFIELD (INFANTS).

Number examined:—Boys, 19; girls, 20; total, 39.

The clothing and footgear are very good. The nutrition is also very much above the average, 63 per cent. boys and 50 per cent. girls being assessed "good."

LANESFIELD (MIXED).

Number of children examined:—Boys, 10; girls, 6; total, 16.

The total of leavers examined is very small, only 16. Last year no leavers were examined.

The clothing and footgear are very good. Nutrition above average. Not a single child examined marked "dirty;" evidence that this school is attended by a more prosperous class of children than any other school in Coseley.

BROAD LANES (INFANTS).

Number examined:—Boys, 40; girls, 43; total, 83.

The clothing and footgear of the boys are very much worse than that of the girls. Only 20 per cent. boys returned with "good" nutrition. Fifty per cent. of boys had sound teeth.

Nutrition of girls poor—not 20 per cent. returned as "good." Fifty-five per cent. of girls had sound teeth.

BROAD LANES (MIXED).

Number examined:—Boys, 20; girls, 20; total, 40.

Thirty per cent. of boys had unsatisfactory vision. The teeth of the girls much above the average, 50 per cent. sound, and 10 per cent. with 4 or more carious teeth.

The nutrition is low, only 15 per cent. being marked as "good."

PARKFIELD (JUNIOR).

Number examined:—Boys, 30; girls, 27; total, 57.

The clothing and footgear are very much above the average, both of boys and girls.

The teeth of the boys are bad, and several had 14 bad teeth. Only one boy out of 30 had sound teeth.

CHRIST CHURCH (INFANTS).

Number examined :—Boys, 52; girls, 47; total, 99.

The clothing of the boys was much worse than that of the girls. Fifty per cent. of boys had enlarged tonsils. The clothing and footgear of the girls were very good. Nutrition much above the average, nearly 50 per cent. being assessed "good."

There were a large number of girls with many carious teeth.

CHRIST CHURCH (MIXED).

Number examined :—Boys, 89; girls, 70; total, 159.

The nutrition of the boys is distinctly below the average. There were a large number of boys with verminous bodies. The clothing and footgear of girls were very much better than that of the boys, as was also the nutrition.

One boy aged 13 weighed 126 lbs.

ST. CHAD'S (INFANTS).

Number examined :—Boys, 21; girls, 23; total, 44.

Nearly 50 per cent. classed as "good" in regard to nutrition. Nearly 50 per cent. with "sound" dentures. Sixty-six per cent. of boys had enlarged tonsils.

The footgear is either very bad or a high standard of assessment is taken. The nutrition of the girls is above the average, as are also their teeth.

ST. MARY'S (INFANTS).

Number examined :—Boys, 41; girls, 36; total, 77.

Two boys, whose average age was $5\frac{7}{12}$ years, each weighed 52 lbs.

About 30 per cent. of the boys had "unsatisfactory" footgear. There was a large proportion of boys whose bodies were "flea-bitten," viz., 25 per cent.

The boys had exceptionally bad teeth—they averaged 4.7 carious teeth.

Footgear poor with girls as well as boys. A very poor proportion was marked "good" with regard to nutrition. Girls' heads were cleaner than the average. It is rather remarkable to find more "dirty" heads than bodies.

ST. MARY'S (GIRLS).

Number examined :—19.

Rather a large proportion had "dirty" heads, viz., 15 out of 19 examined.

ST. MARY'S (BOYS).

Number examined :—41.

Boys' footgear poor, nearly one-third marked "unsatisfactory."

Vision of boys was much above the average.

GENERAL NOTES ON THE TABLES.

CLOTHING.

There is still further improvement in this matter, the percentage of "unsatisfactory" clothing being 11.7, against 12.9 last year, 21.4 in 1912, and 23.7 in 1911.

FOOTGEAR.

A very slight improvement is manifested, the figure being 18.6 for 1914, 18.7 for 1913, and 24 per cent. and 23.7 per cent respectively for the two preceding years.

NUTRITION.

In 1913, 27 per cent. were returned as having "good" nutrition. This year the percentage is 29.2.

CLEANLINESS OF HEAD.

There has been a considerable improvement in this respect, the figures being:—1913, 20.1; 1914, 17.6. On the other hand the cleanliness of body, for some reason, shows a falling away.

EAR CONDITIONS.

There are very few defects in regard to the ear, only 4 being returned as having discharges from the ear, and 5 having defective hearing.

VISION.

Only the vision of children who can read is tested, and in elder children there are returned 22 per cent. with defective eyesight—boys, 19.4 per cent. ; and girls, 24.6. This is serious, and steps should be taken to remedy it. I understand that the teachers have taken steps to supply glasses to the most necessitous cases, and this is a movement worthy of all encouragement.

TEETH.

There are a very large number of children with defective teeth, and it would be well if systematic steps were taken to teach children how to take care of them. In some districts children are taught tooth-drill.

SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR EPIDEMICS.

In several instances it has been necessary to close schools because of epidemics. The following are the names of the schools and the period for which they were closed :—

DAISY BANK INFANTS' SCHOOL closed from November 17th for a period of 3 weeks.

HURST HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL closed from November 17th for a period of 3 weeks.

HURST HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL again closed from December 9th for a period of 2 weeks, when Christmas Holidays commenced.

DAISY BANK MIXED AND INFANTS' SCHOOLS closed from December 14th for a period of 11 days, when Christmas Holidays commenced

REPAIRS TO SCHOOL PREMISES.

At Daisy Bank the roof of the Infants' School has been repaired, and the belfry removed from the Mixed School. The Schools have been thoroughly repaired and re-coloured internally.

At Hurst Hill Schools the whole School has been re-roofed and the internal walls re-coloured.

At Lanesfield, a new heating apparatus has been installed, the working of which at first caused a little difficulty, but I am told that it is giving every satisfaction now.

At Mount Pleasant, the woodwork centre has been re-coloured.

On March 3rd, Dr. Langdon, one of the Medical Inspectors for the Board, was present at the examination of children at Mount Pleasant. He expressed his entire satisfaction at the mode of examination by your Assistant Medical Inspector; he also emphasised the need for a School Nurse to co-operate in the work of inspection. He suggested that centres should be fixed by the School Attendance Officer to which absentees should be brought, so that the Assistant Medical Officer could examine them, and certify as to their fitness to resume school duties. He also thought that it would be advisable for the teachers to send the postcards (respecting children who are away from school suffering from infection non-notifiable) to the Assistant School Medical Officer instead of the School Medical Officer, as the former is more likely to come in contact with the cases than the latter.

I wish to tender my best thanks to your Secretary, Mr. Poole, for the valuable assistance I have received from him during the year, also to the teachers for the prompt manner in which they certify absentees who are suffering from infection.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WALTER HY. ALLEN, L.R.C.P. & M.R.C.S.

School Medical Officer.

February 12th, 1915.



